COMPUTER PERIPHERAL DEVICE FOR WEB-ENHANCED MEDIA SERVICES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A peripheral device that can be configured, for example, in a personal computer (PC) system, between the PC processor and the PC monitor. The peripheral device receives video signals from the PC processor for display on the PC monitor. In addition, the peripheral device receives television (TV) signals from a TV source, for example, via a standard TV connection. The peripheral device combines the video content of the TV signals with the video signals received from the PC processor to generate a combined video signal for display on the PC monitor. The peripheral device supports web-based applications where the web-page layout is received by the PC system via a conventional Internet connection, where the peripheral device overlays the video content of the TV signals over appropriate corresponding windows in the web-page layout. In this way, bandwidth in the PC's Internet connection does not have to be used for streaming media delivery of TV video content. Display of the combined video signal on a PC monitor provides video quality advantages over WebTV technology, which displays combined video signals on lower-resolution TV sets. Moreover, implementation as a peripheral device provides installation advantages over PC-based tuner card technology, which requires installation inside the PC tower.